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Seventh annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The seventh annual progress report on the capital master plan is submitted pursuant to section II, paragraphs 31 and 34, of General Assembly resolution 57/292. It outlines the transition from the design phase work to actual construction activity since the issuance of the previous report (A/63/477).

Significant progress has been achieved during the first year of the construction phase of the project, including the completion of the design and construction documents for 80 per cent of the entire project; the award to the construction manager of approximately \$746.7 million in guaranteed maximum price contracts for construction work; the initiation of the construction of the temporary North Lawn Building and all the other swing spaces; asbestos abatement and swing space construction work in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building and off-site buildings; and the commencement of work to modernize the infrastructure systems and basements on campus.

Off-site swing space fit-out will be completed in the autumn of 2009 to temporarily house Secretariat departments and offices during the renovation and modernization. The relocation of staff to swing spaces commenced in the spring of 2009 in order to prepare for the start of construction in the Secretariat and Conference Buildings in late 2009 and early 2010.

* A/64/150.



The project remains on schedule for completion in 2013. Continuous value engineering as well as the current economic climate have helped the capital master plan procurement process to maintain the budget goals that were established in the sixth annual progress report.

I. Introduction

1. In December 2007, the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/87, approved the proposal of the Secretary-General for an accelerated strategy that would result in the completion of the capital master plan project by 2013, with a lower risk of financial surprise or construction disruption inherent in the phased approach on which the prior strategy was based. The present report provides an update on the status of the project since the issuance, in October 2008, of the previous annual progress report (A/63/477).

II. Progress since the previous annual report

A. Design work

2. Since the previous report, design and construction documents have been completed for approximately 80 per cent of the work of the project. These construction-ready documents have incorporated the results of the value engineering exercises conducted by the capital master plan project team, as well as the blast and sustainability considerations requested by the General Assembly. The design work that has been completed includes the replacement of all glass facades (also known as curtain walls); the renovation of the Secretariat, Conference and General Assembly Buildings, as well as two of the three major sections of the basements and infrastructure; and campus-wide infrastructure systems, such as security, building management, fire alarm and public address systems. In addition, the design and construction documents for all the swing spaces have been completed. However, the design work for the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and South Annex (Cafeteria) Buildings has not yet been completed, as they will be the last to be renovated. The final site/landscape design has not yet begun.

3. The renovated facilities will incorporate many innovative design features, including open offices; a modular planning grid to make office reconfigurations easier; consolidated office conference floors; two new mid-sized conference rooms, providing greater flexibility than the current rooms; a new multi-purpose meeting room; energy-conserving underfloor cooling in the Council Chambers and energy-efficient lighting throughout the campus; the relocation of the loading dock function to the north end of the site, which will eliminate certain blast-protection expenses as well as improve functionality; a relocated car entrance and exit at 42nd Street, which will improve traffic flow for cars and reduce certain blast-protection expenses; a consolidated data centre in the existing underground space; and an updated central conference engineering/broadcast facility.

B. Moves into off-site office swing spaces

4. In order to vacate space for renovation, 2,773 staff will move off site, that is, out of the Secretariat Building. It should be noted that in tallying the number of moves, only end results — not “double moves” — are taken into account. A total of 1,835 staff will move to the 380 Madison Avenue Building, 680 staff will move to the Albano Building and 258 staff will move to the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) Building. Any additional moves will be in coordination with the

expansion of office space arranged for by the Office of Central Support Services. In order to maintain functionality, some interim moves will also be made to allow heads of department and functions that must be readily accessible to the on-site conference facilities to be located in the closest leased buildings.

5. As at 1 September 2009, 1,477 people had moved to the Madison Avenue Building, 680 people had moved to the Albano Building and 107 people had moved to the UNFCU Building. Staff added after the swing space budget was determined are accounted for in the normal provision of space by the Office of Central Support Services. Planning by the Office of Central Support Services and the Office of the Capital Master Plan is coordinated so that, regardless of the funding source, each department is treated as a single entity.

C. Construction of the temporary North Lawn Building

6. Since the issuance of the previous report, the 190,000-square-foot temporary North Lawn Building has been erected and enclosed. The installation of interior utilities and finishes is under way. The Building is scheduled to be completed and ready for occupancy in the autumn of 2009. That Building will act as swing space for the Conference Building functions for two years during the renovation of the Conference Building. At the conclusion of that phase, Conference Building functions will return to the renovated Conference Building. The temporary North Lawn Building will then be partially reconfigured to house the functions of the General Assembly Building, and the General Assembly functions will move to the temporary Building. Upon the conclusion of the General Assembly renovation phase, the temporary North Lawn Building will be removed and the grounds restored to their original state.

7. Owing to security concerns, the Security Council and its related functions will utilize Conference Rooms 4, 5, 6 and 7 as swing space during the renovation of the Security Council Chamber. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the office suite of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and other offices will be located in the temporary North Lawn Building.

D. Other swing space

8. In addition to moves off site, many staff and functions will be relocated within the Headquarters complex to provide unoccupied areas so that the basement renovation work can proceed. An additional 811 people will be moving within the site in the coming months, including those moving into temporary offices in the basement, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building, the South Annex Building and the temporary North Lawn Building. These moves are summarized below:

(a) A total of 147 staff will be relocated to temporary basement facilities from the existing North Lawn Building to facilitate the renovation of the Building;

(b) A total of 322 staff will be relocated to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building from the Secretariat Building to allow for the renovation of the Secretariat Building; 180 members of the accredited media will also be relocated from the

Secretariat and Conference Buildings to the swing space in the Library. The core library function remains within the Building, in a compressed area;

(c) A total of 23 staff will be relocated to the South Annex Building from the Secretariat Building;

(d) A total of 272 staff will be relocated to the temporary North Lawn Building from the Conference and Secretariat Buildings;

(e) A total of 15 staff will be relocated to the General Assembly Building from the Conference Building.

III. Schedule

9. The renovation of the basements and the construction of the temporary North Lawn Building did not begin early in 2008 as planned, owing to various factors, including:

(a) The complexity of the development of the relocation plan within the existing budget and the need for a number of offices within the Secretariat to be involved in the preparation, evaluation and approval of multiple guaranteed maximum price contracts, which is a complex process not previously undertaken. Consequently, detailed and comprehensive due diligence was required in order to protect the interests of the Organization;

(b) The need to complete the incorporation of the blast and sustainability requirements while finalizing the value engineering changes;

(c) Other procedural revisions to the standard United Nations methodology that required some time to finalize, such as the delegation of authority unique to the capital master plan, and a long internal negotiation process.

10. The process for signing guaranteed maximum price contracts has been streamlined since the first such contracts were signed, and the orderly progression required to meet the projected schedule has resumed.

11. The delay in the commencement of the temporary North Lawn Building resulted in a projected delay in the start of the renovation of the Secretariat Building. However, Skanska and the capital master plan teams have developed an accelerated construction schedule for the Secretariat Building that will make up for previous delays and allow the project to complete the Building on time. The date of completion of the renovation of the Secretariat Building is therefore in line with the dates projected for the termination of the responsibility of the Office of the Capital Master Plan for costs of office swing spaces leases, subject to favourable conditions on the lease market at that time.

12. In discussions concerning the relocation strategy for the Conference Building, the Department of Safety and Security advised that the Security Council must remain within the main complex Buildings and could not be relocated to the temporary North Lawn Building. This resulted in the requirement to construct a temporary Security Council Chamber in the General Assembly Building. As that cannot happen until the functions located in that area have been relocated to the temporary North Lawn Building, the Conference Building start date is now projected to be early 2010. However, the Secretary-General expects to minimize the

delay by accelerating that renovation. The General Assembly renovation, which will start after the completion of the Conference Building renovation, is therefore projected to be completed only slightly behind schedule, late in 2013.

13. The schedule for the renovation of the South Annex and Library Buildings is still being developed. The renovation work on those two Buildings will start after the completion of the Conference Building, and the renovation work for both Buildings will be completed in 2013.

14. In summary, the current schedule projects that the Secretariat Building will be fully reoccupied in mid-2012, possibly avoiding additional rental expenses, and the entire project will be completed in 2013, approximately five years after the ground-breaking.

Table 1
Schedule of the capital master plan

Activity	Projection as set out in A/63/477		Current projection		Comments
	Start	Complete	Start	Complete	
Construction of temporary Conference Building	Early 2008	Mid-2009	Mid-2008	Late 2009	Completion due in late autumn 2009
Renovation of United Nations Headquarters	Early 2008	Mid-2013	Late 2008	Late 2013	Work in basement commenced in late 2008
Conference Building	Mid-2009	Mid-2011	Late 2009	Late 2011	Conference Building renovation cannot commence until temporary Security Council Chamber has been constructed
General Assembly Building	Mid-2011	Mid-2013	Late 2011	Late 2013	To follow the Conference Building renovation
Secretariat Building	Early 2009	Early 2012	Late 2009	Mid-2012	Renovation work to commence after the completion of the temporary Conference Building
South Annex Building	Early 2011	Early 2012	Late 2011	Early 2013	Renovation work to commence after the completion of the Conference Building

Activity	Projection as set out in A/63/477		Current projection		Comments
	Start	Complete	Start	Complete	
Library Building	Early 2012	Early 2013	Early 2013	Late 2013	Renovation work to commence after the completion of the South Annex Building
Site/landscaping	Mid-2009	Mid-2013	Mid-2011	Late 2013	Will be coordinated with completion of each building

IV. Value engineering

15. As discussed in the sixth annual progress report, an intensive value engineering exercise was initiated in December 2007 in order to seek ways to reduce the \$219 million project deficit. The initial value engineering effort successfully identified approximately \$100 million in items that could be modified without a loss in terms of functionality or quality. Value engineering work has continued throughout the preparation of preliminary and final design and construction documents, and there has been continuous evaluation, at each design review opportunity for each component of the project, to determine whether a more cost-efficient alternative is possible. The value engineering work also extends to the procurement of the guaranteed maximum price contracts, whereby Skanska and its subcontractors are required to suggest less expensive means and methods of work.

16. Over the past few months, estimates for major scope item cost savings alternatives for the project were received from the construction manager and consultants and were reviewed for viability. To date, estimates indicate that the effort has been successful and the value engineering work will continue through the procurement process for each subproject of the capital master plan. The goal is to achieve an additional \$100 million or more in savings so as to allow the project to be completed on, or below, budget.

V. Procurement

17. In its resolution 63/270, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to explore ways to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In this regard, during the reporting period the Procurement Division of the Department of Management continued working to explore ways to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to increase the transparency of all procurement processes. The Secretariat continues to work closely with the construction manager to ensure that all procurement opportunities are extended and communicated as widely as possible. In particular, during the past year the Procurement Division has contributed to notes verbales issued to Member States relating to key requests for Expressions of Interest; reviewed and requested enhanced wording for requests for Expressions of Interest issued by the construction manager; contributed to procurement seminars

both overseas and in New York; briefed representatives from overseas missions to the United Nations; met representatives from overseas trade organizations; and requested revisions to construction specification documents to ensure the widest interpretation permissible. Furthermore, the Procurement Division is engaged in ongoing activities to publicize opportunities and to contact vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the United Nations Global Marketplace, related United Nations agencies and local trade organizations. It is expected and planned that these actions, and others under development, will continue for the remainder of the project. Actions of note include working with the construction manager to identify the country of origin and value of all materials bought for the capital master plan and to ensure that the value of material originating from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is identified separately.

18. In response to earlier General Assembly requests to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat continues to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in a transparent manner. In particular, the Procurement Division continues to oversee all secondary procurement activity carried out by the construction manager and records its involvement by means of formal approval of bid lists, a record of bid openings, attendance at key negotiation meetings and written approval of subcontractor bid awards. In addition to the posting of United Nations contract awards on the Procurement Division website,¹ requests for expressions of interest and subcontract awards are posted by the construction manager on its own website.²

19. During the period under review, the Procurement Division negotiated and executed a number of construction management agreements for major subproject works. The execution of such agreements follows appropriate approval by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts.

20. In addition to its role in implementing and overseeing sourcing activity, the Procurement Division reviews and comments on change order requests and other requests for approval submitted by the construction manager following the execution of subproject construction agreements. The Procurement Division seeks to ensure that such change requests are reviewed by the capital master plan team in accordance with the terms of the construction contracts and, in particular, that contingency allowances are expended only in accordance with agreed processes and constraints.

21. Further key activity planned by the Procurement Division within the next period includes a review of the financial stability of key contractors and subcontractors as well as increased efforts to communicate procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

VI. Health and safety

22. Improving the safety of occupants and visitors and providing a healthy work environment at United Nations Headquarters is a major objective of the capital master plan.

¹ http://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/award_cmp.htm.

² <https://partners.myskanska.com/usa/clients/unitednations/CMP/default.aspx>.

23. One of the most important steps in this regard is the removal of all asbestos-containing materials from the Headquarters complex. Throughout implementation of the capital master plan, an asbestos abatement contractor working under the construction manager as a subcontractor will perform the work required for the abatement of asbestos-containing materials in accordance with host country regulations at the federal, state and city levels. Asbestos abatement work commenced in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and basements in the spring of 2009, and asbestos will be abated in all locations at Headquarters throughout the duration of the project.

24. The work will be monitored by an independent asbestos abatement consultant who reports to the capital master plan. The consultant does not serve as a subcontractor to the construction manager. Staff who will remain on site in building segments isolated from the work areas have been briefed about the procedures and safety precautions relating to asbestos abatement.

25. As required by the capital master plan, the construction manager, working in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security, developed and implemented a safety and security plan for the construction site. The plan contains all relevant regulations established by the host country's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The safety and security plan has been effective in maintaining safe working conditions, and no out-of-compliance reports against the construction manager were reported. With 800,000 person-hours of construction work so far, the capital master plan remains one of the safest projects in the host country, with only one minor work-related injury reported over the first year of construction.

VII. Parking

26. It was reported in the previous annual progress report (A/63/477) that, in order to improve security at the Headquarters complex, changes to the garage would be required. As a result, approximately 350 parking spaces would be permanently eliminated. In response to the concerns raised, the capital master plan design team has been charged with reviewing options to explore if it is possible to limit the permanent reduction of garage capacity, and progress made in this regard will be reported in the eighth annual progress report.

27. Efforts are being made to carefully phase the reduction of available parking space to minimize any adverse impact on garage users. All construction and repair projects in the garage have been planned and are being implemented in such a manner as to ensure a gradual decrease in the available parking to the extent possible without jeopardizing the overall schedule of the capital master plan project.

28. To decrease the demand for parking spaces, the Office of Central Support Services has taken several steps, including reducing temporary parking permits by 40 per cent, discontinuing daily permits and suspending the issuance of new parking medallions to staff. United Nations staff members have also been encouraged to surrender parking medallions and to carpool to the extent possible. In the long term and over the duration of the capital master plan, the required reduction in garage users will be achieved through attrition, as current holders retire or leave the Organization and surrender their permits.

29. As noted in the previous progress report, the use of the United Nations garage will be limited to official activities to facilitate the conduct of the Organization's daily business during construction. The understanding and cooperation of all permit holders to reduce their usage of the garage will continue to be required as the project progresses.

VIII. Artwork

30. The requirement that works of art be treated properly during the renovation has resulted in several actions:

(a) Fifteen Member States have taken the opportunity presented by the renovation to request that works of art be returned for cleaning or restoration. To date, only three Member States have retrieved their donations;

(b) A total of 114 works of art will initially be relocated to the temporary North Lawn Building, which will eliminate the costs and dangers associated with storage, allow them to be seen and appreciated during the renovation period and provide a means of "softening" a temporary environment. In order to simplify, to the extent possible, the placement of the artwork in the temporary North Lawn Building, the location of each artwork will be determined on the basis of alphabetical order;

(c) Four works of art will be protected in place because it is impossible to move them safely. Detailed planning is being carried out with experts in this field.

31. Discussions are still in progress regarding some other works of art. However, it appears that 10 works of art will require on-campus storage during the renovation.

IX. Sustainability

32. The previous progress report noted several anticipated improvements in the environmental performance of the Headquarters facility as a result of the capital master plan. Improvements related to annual consumption following the completion of the capital master plan, as compared with the current situation, were projected as follows:

(a) A 44 per cent reduction in energy consumption;

(b) A 40 per cent reduction in freshwater consumption.

33. Based upon the recent evaluation of energy savings and a more sophisticated understanding of projected energy consumption, further improvements can be expected as follows:

(a) A 50 per cent reduction in energy consumption;

(b) A 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions related to energy consumption (measured according to the World Resources Institute greenhouse gas reporting protocol, as combined effects of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane, reported in carbon dioxide equivalents);

(c) A 40 per cent reduction in freshwater consumption (the same level of reduction reported in the previous report).

34. Furthermore, a significant portion of energy consumption at the Headquarters complex is devoted to high-level lighting in the conference rooms for broadcast functions and power requirements for the primary data centre. Some of those power demands will be increased, as compared with existing conditions, as part of the modernization aspect of the project. Taking into account the above, and reporting only on consumption related to the heating and air conditioning performance of the project, it is anticipated that the energy used by the Headquarters complex for those specific functions will be reduced by 65 per cent as compared with pre-capital master plan consumption.

35. There are several different national rating systems around the world which measure the level of sustainability of building projects. The system used in the United States of America is known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the evaluation system is known as the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). The system used in Japan is known as the Comprehensive Assessment System for Building Environmental Efficiency (CASBEE), and that of Australia is known as Green Star. Because of the international status of the United Nations, the capital master plan project is not seeking certification by any national system. However, the capital master plan team has evaluated the project against each of the methodologies mentioned above, and has estimated that the capital master plan would be certified at a relatively high level in each system, accordingly:

- (a) LEED (United States): "Gold";
- (b) BREEAM (United Kingdom): "Very good";
- (c) CASBEE (Japan): "A";
- (d) Green Star (Australia): "Four stars".

36. As previously reported, the anticipated reductions in energy consumption will be achieved mainly through various key initiatives, including (a) the replacement of the ageing and leaky exterior glass facades, which have reached the end of their useful life and require replacement for safety and security reasons; (b) the replacement of deteriorated and inefficient cooling equipment, which is also at the end of its useful life; (c) the installation of new electronic building management systems, which control energy usage by remote, programmable means and prevent waste; and (d) the installation of new, high-efficiency lighting.

37. Also as previously reported, anticipated reductions in freshwater consumption will be achieved by installing (a) new low-flow and/or metered-flow lavatories, urinals and toilets; and (b) a new high-efficiency landscape irrigation system. The capital master plan will also install a greywater harvesting system, although only on a small, demonstration scale. Greywater harvesting is the collection, storage and treatment (cleaning) of rainwater, which is then used to flush toilets and urinals. The system included in the capital master plan will service restrooms in the General Assembly Building only.

X. Accessibility

38. The design of alterations to improve physical accessibility was implemented in the completed design work, and will continue to be implemented in the remaining design work. In summary, the major areas of improvement will be:

- (a) Entrances (including power-assisted doors at all major entrances);
- (b) Horizontal circulation within the building, whereby doors will have proper adjacent spacing, width and pressure;
- (c) Vertical transportation, with all elevators accessible and controls situated at appropriate heights;
- (d) An appropriate number of fully accessible toilet facilities;
- (e) Life safety systems, including speakers/strobes;
- (f) Signage at required minimum sizes, as well as Braille signage in English and French for all permanent information;
- (g) Enhanced support for T-switch-equipped assisted-listening devices, which enable direct transmission to assisted-hearing devices, will be implemented to the extent technically feasible;
- (h) One area that has been difficult to improve is accessibility of interpretation booths. In the temporary North Lawn Building and in the new Conference Rooms 11 and 12, all booths will be accessible.

XI. Advisory board

39. The creation of the advisory board is ongoing and is expected to be completed no later than 31 December 2009 in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly (resolution 63/270, para. 40).

XII. Donations

40. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 57/292, 60/256 and 61/251, encouraged the Secretary-General to seek donations for the capital master plan.

41. A donations policy was developed and communicated to Member States on 5 January 2009. Subsequently, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 63/270, not to endorse the donations policy, and requested the Secretary-General to make new proposals in this regard that allow all Member States, without distinction or conditions, to make donations in full conformity with the international and intergovernmental character of the Organization, as well as the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and without prejudice to the scope, specifications and design of the project.

42. In general, there are two types of donations — cash contribution and in kind contributions:

- (a) Voluntary cash contributions are accepted in accordance with financial regulations 3.11 and 3.12 and financial rule 103.4;

(b) In kind contribution, in addition to acceptance being in accordance with financial regulations 3.11, 3.12 and financial rule 103.4, is guided by Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2006/5, entitled "Acceptance of pro bono goods and services".

43. Furthermore, in preparation for the proposed capital master plan renovation project, the Under-Secretary-General for Management sent letters, dated 10 January 2007, to Member States, stating that "the United Nations requires a moratorium on gifts to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. We must therefore request that each Member State postpone offering any new gifts starting 15 January 2007 until the projected completion of the capital master plan, presently estimated for the end of 2014".

44. The proposed capital master plan donation policy has been prepared in the light of, and consistent with, the framework reflected in paragraphs 42 and 43 above.

45. In response to the concerns of the General Assembly, a revised donations policy was developed to allow for smaller cash donations to be made in two ways: (a) by making a joint contribution, with other Member States, in order to fund the joint adoption of a room; and (b) by making donations to a trust fund without adopting a room. It should be noted that the former option would entitle the Member State to design input, while the latter would not.

XIII. Relations with the host country

46. As reported in the previous progress report, in January 2008 the United Nations reached an understanding with the authorities of the host city and country concerning the process by which the United Nations would seek to meet host city and country building, fire and safety codes without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of the United Nations. During the period covered by the present report, the United Nations, the host country and the host city maintained a constructive dialogue on matters pertaining to the capital master plan, and the host city provided assistance and support with respect to the process of reviewing the Organization's construction documents, in accordance with the January 2008 understanding. Coordination and dialogue with city authorities have been productive, and the relationship between the Organization and the host city is strong.

XIV. Projected cost

47. The budget of the capital master plan was established at \$1,876.7 million by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/251. It was based upon the projected cost of a phased renovation at that time. Owing to delays in the execution of the project in 2006 and 2007, the effects of inflation caused the projected cost of the project to increase to \$2,096.3 million, creating a projected budget deficit of \$219.6 million. The approval of accelerated strategy IV in December 2007 resulted in a projected cost of \$2,066.8 million, with a reduced projected budget deficit of \$190.1 million.

48. Value engineering incorporated into the design of the project before the previous progress report lowered the projected cost to \$1,974.2 million, with a reduced budget deficit of \$97.5 million.

49. At this time, with more than 62 per cent of the capital master plan commitments already bought and locked in, the new projected cost is \$1,968.1 million, with a reduced budget deficit of \$91.4 million.

50. Another change from the projected cost as set out in the previous progress report is the lower level of contingency in the estimated costs presented in the present report, the result of the progress made on the project. The contingency, previously separated into contingency and escalation, was combined into one factor and then appropriately reduced, on the basis of the far lower level of risk now facing the project. Whereas previously, the capital master plan faced seven years of unpredictable escalation and other pricing unknowns for the entire \$1.9 billion budget, the Office of the Capital Master Plan has now locked in the costs for \$1,223.6 million, and will lock in an additional estimated amount of \$159 million by the end of 2009. It is projected that at the beginning of 2010, an estimated \$409 million of construction will remain at risk.

51. The projected changes in renovation costs, swing space costs and options are summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Budget of the capital master plan

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Accelerated strategy</i>	
	<i>As at September 2008</i>	<i>As at September 2009</i>
Renovation		
Construction	1 032 900	1 057 402
Professional fees, management costs	280 340	302 365
Subtotal	1 313 240	1 359 767
Swing space estimate		
Office swing space	273 441	273 622
Library swing space	2 714	2 714
Conference swing space	149 540	150 545
Subtotal	425 695	426 881
Total cost for renovation and swing space	1 738 935	1 786 648
Contingency/escalation	235 236^a	181 423^b
Total project	1 974 171	1 968 071
Approved budget	1 876 700	1 876 700
Variance against approved budget	97 471	91 371

^a The total cost of the project (\$1.739 billion) consists of: (a) commitments entered into/bids received for procurement amounting to \$750.4 million plus (b) estimated costs for future expenditure at \$988.6 million. Contingency/escalation is computed as 5 per cent for committed costs (\$750.4 million x 5 per cent = \$37.5 million) and 20 per cent for estimated future costs (\$988.6 million x 20 per cent = \$197.7 million), totalling \$235.2 million (\$37.5 million + \$197.7 million).

^b Owing to the fact that the project is at a more advanced stage, contingency is now calculated as 10 per cent over the actual value of signed guaranteed maximum price contracts, or as 20 per cent of projected unsigned guaranteed maximum price contracts, based on the reconciled estimate ("final budget"). Contingency calculation: (a) signed guaranteed maximum price contracts (\$746.7 million x 10 per cent = \$74.7 million) plus (b) future guaranteed maximum price contracts (\$568.5 x 20 per cent = \$113.7 million), totalling \$181.4 million (this takes into account a contingency transfer of \$6.9 million to signed guaranteed maximum price contracts).

XV. Other financial considerations

A. Secondary data centre

52. In its resolution 63/269, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information and communications technology, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters" (A/63/743) and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/774), subject to the provisions of the resolution. In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to absorb \$5,096,880 within the budget of the capital master plan, and decided that \$2,031,860 shall be financed from the resources to be approved for the support account of peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 in order to pursue the most reliable and cost-effective risk mitigation measures during the migration of the primary data centre to the North Lawn.

53. The General Assembly also decided that any further proposal for risk mitigation measures to protect data and the information and communications systems of the Secretariat during the construction work of the capital master plan, if necessary, shall be reported in the context of the annual progress report on the capital master plan. Addendum 1 to the present report (A/64/346/Add.1) provides information on the status of the secondary data centre and the revised resource requirements for the secondary data centre for the period from July 2009 to December 2011 on the basis of cost-sharing arrangements between the capital master plan and the support account for peacekeeping operations.

B. Associated costs related to the capital master plan

54. During the construction period under the capital master plan, temporary increases in staffing and operational costs will be required in certain parts of the Secretariat to support construction activities. To date, such costs have been identified with regard to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Management and the Department of Safety and Security.

55. The Secretary-General presented the associated costs related to the capital master plan for the period 2008 to 2013 in his report on associated costs related to the capital master plan (A/62/799). However, the report was not considered by the General Assembly. In his subsequent report on the associated costs related to the capital master plan (A/63/582), the Secretary-General submitted revised projected associated costs related to the capital master plan for the period 2008 to 2013. By its

resolution 63/270, the General Assembly decided that the approved associated costs for the capital master plan will be financed from within the approved budget of the capital master plan unless otherwise specified by the General Assembly, and decided not to approve the overall level of associated costs at the time, bearing in mind opportunities for further cost reductions posed by the present economic circumstances as well as savings realized by the Secretary-General.

56. In resolution 63/270, the General Assembly recalled paragraph 50 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/736), and requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 from within the overall budget approved for the capital master plan in a total amount of \$30,272,400. Furthermore, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly, for its decision at the main part of its sixty-fourth session, in the context of his seventh annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan, proposals for financing the associated costs required for 2010 from within the approved budget of the capital master plan. Addendum 2 to the present report (A/64/346/Add.2) provides information on the status of expenditures of the associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 and estimated requirements for 2010.

XVI. Financing

57. By paragraph 14 of its resolution 61/251, the General Assembly decided to establish two different options for the assessment and payment of costs by Member States for the capital master plan.

58. As at 7 May 2007, 12 Member States had selected the one-time payment option and 180 Member States had selected the equal multi-year assessment of five years in accordance with the pre-established selection criteria and deadlines specified in resolution 61/251. As at 31 August 2009, an amount of \$88.4 million in assessments remain unpaid to the capital master plan for 2009 and prior periods.

XVII. Internationally syndicated letter of credit

59. To date there remains no need for the establishment of a letter of credit pursuant to paragraphs 26 and 28 of General Assembly resolution 61/251. However, the authority has been and should continue to be maintained, to provide assurance to the construction manager that adequate funding for the project is available.

XVIII. Working capital reserve

60. In its resolution 61/251, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a working capital reserve of \$45 million under the capital master plan account. As at 31 August 2009, an amount of \$72,068 remained outstanding.

XIX. Status of appropriations and expenditures

61. The total appropriation to date is \$1,186.8 million, broken down as follows:

(a) In its resolution 57/292, the General Assembly appropriated \$25.5 million for the design development phase of the capital master plan and authorized commitments of up to \$26.0 million for the biennium 2004-2005 for the preparation of construction documents;

(b) In its resolution 59/295, the Assembly decided to convert \$17.8 million of the \$26.0 million commitment authority into an appropriation and renewed the existing commitment authority for 2006 for the balance of \$8.2 million;

(c) In its resolution 60/248, the Assembly decided to convert the balance of the existing commitment authority of \$8.2 million into an appropriation for 2006;

(d) In its resolution 60/256, the Assembly appropriated an additional \$23.5 million for financing the design and pre-construction phases of the capital master plan, including swing space requirements, and provided commitment authority for up to \$77.0 million for the biennium 2006-2007 to provide for the construction, fit-out and related requirements of a conference swing space building on the North Lawn and for the leasing, design pre-construction services, fit-out and related requirements of library and office swing space;

(e) In its resolution 60/282, the Assembly decided to convert the existing \$77.0 million commitment authority into an appropriation, which was assessed in 2006;

(f) In its resolution 61/251, the Assembly decided to appropriate \$42.0 million for 2007 for the design and pre-construction phases of the capital master plan, including swing space requirements;

(g) In its resolution 62/87, the Assembly decided to appropriate \$992.8 million for the biennium 2008-2009 for the project.

62. Actual expenditures for the project as at 31 August 2009 amount to \$872.9 million. This consists of actual expenditures of \$3.2 million in 2003, \$14.8 million in 2004, \$6.5 million in 2005, \$36.5 million in 2006, \$46.4 million in 2007, \$229.6 million in 2008 and \$535.9 million for the period January to August 2009. It should be noted that the rate of expenditure will further increase with the finalization of the guaranteed maximum price contracts for the renovation of the Secretariat and Conference Buildings by the end of 2009. Actual and projected expenditures for the period from 2003 to 2009 by category are detailed in table 3.

Table 3

Expenditures for the period 2003-2009 for the design development, construction documents and construction administration phases and for pre-construction services and construction

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2003-2005 ^a	2006 ^a	2007 ^a	2008 ^a	Jan-Aug 2009 ^a	Total	Sep-Dec 2009 ^b
Design contractual services	12 910.1	22 426.9	13 324.8	43 202.3	14 426.3	106 290.4	13 396.3
Direct staff costs	4 790.3	1 569.4	2 338.9	2 737.9	2 127.9	13 564.4	1 039.1
Support costs	1 348.2	587.1	958.1	1 409.5	1 133.0	5 435.9	698.8
Operating and other costs	1 623.4	570.0	751.1	3 705.5	390.5	7 040.5	2 085.1
Programme management and consultants	3 377.1	4 524.8	4 117.4	20 208.5	1 814.9	34 042.7	687.3
Construction and pre-construction	—	—	7 022.0	25 265.9	322 136.3	354 424.2	286 359.5
Swing space cost	506.3	6 848.0	17 881.2	133 081.5	193 805.7	352 122.7	9 110.4
Subtotal	24 555.4	36 526.2	46 393.5	229 611.1	535 834.6	872 920.8	313 376.5
Savings	(12.7)	(1 512.4)	(9.7)			(1 534.8)	
Total	24 542.7	35 013.8	46 383.8	229 611.1	535 834.6	871 386.0	

^a Actual.

^b Projected.

XX. Overall financial requirements of the capital master plan

63. In paragraph 133 of the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2008 (A/64/5 (vol. V)), the Board recommended that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/270, the Administration disclose in the cost estimate for the capital master plan the associated costs approved by the General Assembly. Table 4 reflects the overall financial requirements of the capital master plan, taking into consideration the projected cost of the capital master plan project, the General Assembly resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to absorb, within the approved budget of the capital master plan, the requirements of associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 and secondary data centres and projected requirements for associated costs for the year 2010 and risk mitigation measures to protect data and the information and communications systems of the Secretariat during construction work under the capital master plan.

Table 4
Overall financial requirements of the capital master plan
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Projected requirements^c</i>
Capital master plan project	1 968 071
Associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 ^b	30 300
Secondary data centre for 2008-2009 ^a	5 100
Proposals for financing the associated costs required for 2010 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan	50 114
Proposal for risk mitigation measures to protect data and information and communications systems of the Secretariat during construction work under the capital master plan	12 257
Total requirements to be financed from the approved capital master plan budget	2 065 842
Approved capital master plan budget	1 876 700
Variance against approved budget	189 142

^a Does not include estimates for associated costs for the period 2011-2013 of \$91,874,900.

^b See resolution 63/270.

^c See resolution 63/269.

XXI. Conclusions and recommendations

64. The Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly:

(a) Take note of the progress made since the issuance of the sixth annual progress report;

(b) Decide to appropriate the remaining balance of \$689.9 million towards the construction phases of the capital master plan;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue reporting on the status of the project, the schedule, the projected cost to complete, the status of contributions and the working capital reserve.



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Items 127, 128 and 142 of the provisional agenda*

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Proposal for risk mitigation measures to protect data and the information and communications systems of the Secretariat during construction work of the capital master plan

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/269, the General Assembly approved the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in his report on information and communications technology (ICT), disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations (A/63/743) to establish a new secondary data centre for United Nations Headquarters to replace the current secondary data centre in the DC2 Building in order to mitigate risks during the relocation of the primary data centre, as part of the capital master plan project, from its current location in the Secretariat building to its new, permanent location in the North Lawn basement. The Assembly also decided that any further proposal for risk mitigation measures during the construction work of the capital master plan, if necessary, should be reported in the context of the annual progress report on the capital master plan.

2. The present report responds to the above decision of the General Assembly and also provides an update on the implementation of the new secondary data centre, including the resources required for the biennium 2010-2011.

3. The request of the General Assembly in paragraph 15 of its resolution 63/269 for a permanent solution for the secondary data centre for Headquarters will be taken up in a report to be submitted at the main part of the sixty-fifth session in the

* A/64/150.

context of the unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, which will build on the principles and mandates relating to disaster recovery and business continuity established by Assembly resolutions 63/262 and 63/269. The report to be submitted to the sixty-fifth session will also build on the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-fourth session on enterprise systems and disaster recovery and business continuity and the decisions of the Assembly on that report.

II. Status of implementation of the secondary data centre

4. A consulting company, experienced in data centre relocation projects, has been engaged through the Office of the Capital Master Plan to provide expert advice to the Office of Information and Communications Technology, from April 2009, in planning the relocation of both the primary and the secondary data centres. The company has been involved in extensive discussions with owners and operators of all systems in an effort to identify the dependencies in their migration and to engage them in the migration effort.

5. In his above-mentioned report (A/63/743), the Secretary-General proposed that a commercial data centre facility be leased, starting on 1 July 2009, and the services of the International Computing Centre be obtained to install new ICT equipment in this "infrastructure-ready" facility, and that all systems be migrated from the current secondary data centre in the DC2 Building to the leased facility by 1 November 2009, that is, in time to provide a reliable backup during the relocation of the primary data centre.

6. The Secretariat has identified a suitable data centre facility in Piscataway, New Jersey, that meets its requirements, despite the challenging timetable referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/743, para. 22). The facility has a raised floor and adequate cooling and power, including backup power, with redundant capacity for power and cooling. The Secretariat has entered into a 30-month lease, commencing on 1 July 2009, with an option to extend, if necessary.

7. In the same report (A/63/743, para. 24), the Secretary-General also proposed that, in view of the strict time schedule and the associated costs attached to any delays, the Secretariat should enter into a service delivery agreement with the International Computing Centre under financial rule 105.16 (a) (iii) on cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system. Under that agreement, the Centre would provide the necessary equipment and services to run the new secondary data centre. As proposed in the report of the Secretary-General, in order to ensure that the Organization may achieve a best value-for-money outcome from the Centre, a robust statement of work was prepared by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and issued by the Procurement Division to the Centre and to other vendors on 22 April 2009, in order to benchmark the estimates provided by the Centre.

8. In its proposal received on 7 May 2009, the International Computing Centre stated that it would be unable to meet the Secretariat's schedule for completion of the secondary data centre migration by 1 November 2009. On inquiry, it became apparent that the lead time for hiring suitable personnel and sourcing equipment made it unfeasible for the Centre to reduce the time needed to implement the proposed project, adhering to the mandatory timeline prescribed in the statement of

work. The Secretariat, therefore, deemed the proposal to be technically unacceptable and decided to execute the project without the assistance of the Centre and to enable the secondary data centre to be relocated in time to mitigate the risks during the migration of the primary data centre starting in November 2009.

9. Following the signing of the lease for the new data centre at the end of June 2009, the design of the fit-out of the racks for the ICT equipment in the new facility was completed and telecommunication links to the new facility ordered. The ICT equipment needed for the facility has also been ordered, and some of the equipment has already been delivered to the site. All other preparatory activities for commissioning the secondary data centre in the new facility are also under way.

10. In view of the decision not to engage the International Computing Centre for the implementation of the new secondary data centre, and in order to ensure the successful implementation of the project, the Office of Information and Communications Technology set up a dedicated project team with the experience and skills necessary to ensure proper execution. The skilled resources released for the project are being replaced so that the continuity of regular functions may be ensured. Additional contractual resources are also being hired to ensure that adequate skilled resources are available to execute the project within the planned schedule. The project will be implemented within the same time frame and within the same level of resources that were proposed when the International Computing Centre was to have been the implementing partner (details on the resources are included in part IV below).

11. The Office of Information and Communications Technology has also set up a small "mock" secondary data centre within the DC2 Building to facilitate the testing of the migration of systems to the new secondary data centre. This small-scale, limited-capacity version of the new secondary data centre can simulate certain critical features of the new secondary data centre so that problems, which are likely to be encountered when systems are migrated to the new data centre, may be anticipated and rectified in time for the actual migration.

12. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/269 (para. 6), expressed regret that the proposal of the Secretary-General did not provide the necessary assurances that its implementation would sufficiently mitigate risks during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn at Headquarters. With the signing of the lease for the facility on schedule, the procurement of equipment, the hiring of personnel, including experts in planning the relocation of data centres, and the numerous other preparatory activities in progress, the Secretariat believes that the new secondary data centre will be operational in time to mitigate the risks during the migration of the primary data centre.

13. Notwithstanding the decision not to engage the International Computing Centre for the implementation of the new secondary data centre, the Secretariat anticipates using the Centre to manage some of the operations of the new secondary data centre, similar to the services that it currently provides for the primary and secondary data centres. This matter will be reviewed and decided upon in the context of the renewal of the current service delivery agreement with the Centre, which expires at the end of 2009.

III. Follow-up on other mandates

14. In its resolutions 63/262 (sect. IV, para. 7) and 63/269 (para. 9), the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General ensure that the space originally leased in the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) Building for the secondary data centre be fully utilized if it was not possible to terminate the lease. Within the overall relocation plan for the capital master plan, a suitable group has been identified to occupy the floor in the UNFCU Building that was formerly designated for the secondary data centre. Design of this office space is currently under way, and will be followed by fit-out and occupancy by the end of 2009.

15. In its resolution 63/269 (para. 15), the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit, no later than at the main part of the sixty-fifth session, a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, including a permanent solution for Headquarters. Related to this, in its resolution 63/262 (sect. IV, para. 13), the Assembly had also requested the Secretary-General to report, at the main part of its sixty-fourth session, on the possibilities for consolidating and using the most reliable and cost-effective solutions for data storage, business continuity services and hosting of enterprise systems. In response to the provision of resolution 63/262, the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-fourth session on enterprise systems and disaster recovery and business continuity presents a framework for a unified approach to disaster recovery and business continuity for ICT. It highlights the principles that will guide the refinement of the strategy for an Organization-wide disaster recovery and business continuity plan and puts forth an action plan, outlining the processes, timelines and resource requirements for delivery of a comprehensive plan to address the requirements of the Secretariat as a whole. The implementation of the action plan and the results of the analysis undertaken as part of this strategy will influence the decision relating to the permanent solution for United Nations Headquarters, in particular the size and location of the secondary data centre. The Secretary-General intends to report on the permanent solution for the secondary data centre at United Nations Headquarters as part of the unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan during the main part of the sixty-fifth session.

IV. Resource requirements

16. In its resolution 63/269 (para. 12), the General Assembly approved the amount of \$5,096,880 to be absorbed within the budget of the capital master plan during 2008-2009 and \$2,031,860 to be financed from the resources to be approved for the support account for peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

17. In the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/743, table 1) it was assumed that the International Computing Centre would lease ICT equipment and provide services related to the new secondary data centre. As a result of the decision not to engage the Centre, owing to its inability to meet the mandatory schedule for the project, the Secretariat was required to purchase and/or lease all the equipment directly. This change in approach resulted in a need to realign the resources approved. In addition, owing to the prevailing market conditions, the Secretariat was also able to obtain an advantageous rate for the lease of the new data centre facility. The changes in the project cost for the period from

July 2009 to December 2011 and the distribution of costs among the objects of expenditure are shown in table 1.

Table 1

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>As per the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/63/743)</i>	<i>Revised estimate presented to Fifth Committee during first resumed part of sixty-third session</i>	<i>Current estimate</i>
Non-recurrent expenditures			
Contractual services			
Commissioning equipment	994.7	994.7	836.4
Migrating applications	1 000.0	1 000.0	850.2
Furniture and equipment			
Data centre equipment	—	—	2 256.2
Travel	—	—	94.8
Recurrent expenditures			
General operating expenses			
Lease of data centre facility	11 070.0	8 070.0	6 191.8
Contractual services			
Data centre equipment and services ^a	12 672.8	11 632.8	—
Data centre services (other contractors)	—	—	3 613.3
Furniture and equipment			
Data centre equipment and lease	—	—	7 854.8
Total	25 737.5	21 697.5	21 697.5

^a International Computing Centre.

18. The current estimates for the project include:

- (a) \$1,686,600 for contractual services to cover the non-recurring costs for setting up the equipment and systems in the new data centre;
- (b) \$2,256,200 for the purchase of equipment for the data centre;
- (c) \$94,800 for system experts from within the United Nations Secretariat to travel to Headquarters to assist in the migration to the secondary data centre;
- (d) \$6,191,800 for the lease of the facilities, including space, power and cooling;
- (e) \$3,613,200 for contractual services to operate and maintain the data centre;
- (f) \$7,854,900 for data centre equipment maintenance and leasing costs.

19. It is proposed that, for the secondary data centre, the current cost-sharing arrangement, whereby 20 per cent of the costs are met from the peacekeeping support account and 80 per cent from the regular budget, be continued, on the basis of the proportion of capacity in the Headquarters data centre used for peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping operations. In line with the earlier decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 63/269, it is the proposal of the Secretary-General to

continue the funding arrangement, whereby the regular budget portion would be funded from the capital master plan project.

20. The revised resource requirements for the secondary data centre for the period from July 2009 to December 2011 by cost-sharing arrangement are set out in table 2.

Table 2

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Regular budget/ capital master plan		Peacekeeping budget			Total
	2008-2009	2010-2011	1 July 2009- 30 June 2010	1 July 2010- 30 June 2011	1 July 2011- 31 Dec. 2011	
Non-recurrent expenditures						
Contractual services						
Commissioning equipment	533.7	—	302.7	—	—	836.4
Migrating applications	740.0	—	110.2	—	—	850.2
Furniture and equipment						
Data centre equipment	1 823.8	—	432.4	—	—	2 256.2
Travel	—	—	94.8	—	—	94.8
Recurrent expenditures						
General operating expenses						
Lease of data centre facility	1 515.2	3 223.0	687.6	422.5	343.5	6 191.8
Contractual services						
Data centre services (other contractors)		3 147.7	—	314.1	151.4	3 613.3
Furniture and equipment						
Data centre equipment maintenance and lease	484.2	5 886.7	404.1	583.6	496.3	7 854.8
Total	5 096.9	12 257.4	2 031.8	1 320.2	991.2	21 697.5

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

21. The General Assembly is requested:

- (a) To approve the total revised estimated cost of the project of \$21,697,500;
- (b) To approve the continued use of the cost-sharing arrangement for the new secondary data centre, approved in its resolution 63/269;
- (c) To approve the resource requirements for the regular budget share of the project in the biennium 2010-2011 of \$12,257,400 to be funded from the approved capital master plan budget;
- (d) To note that the future remaining requirements under the peacekeeping support account estimated at \$1,320,200 will be included in the peacekeeping support account proposals for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and that an estimated amount of \$991,200 will be included in the proposals for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.



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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for financing the associated costs required for the year 2010 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan

I. Introduction

1. During the construction period of the capital master plan, temporary increases in staffing and operational costs will be required in certain parts of the Secretariat that will support the construction activities of the capital master plan. At this stage, such costs have been identified with regard to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Management, the Office of Information and Communications Technology, and the Department of Safety and Security.

2. The Secretary-General presented the associated costs related to the capital master plan for the period 2008-2013 in his report on associated costs related to the capital master plan.¹ However, that report was not considered by the General Assembly. In his subsequent report on the associated costs related to the capital master plan,² the Secretary-General submitted revised projected associated costs related to the capital master plan for the period 2008-2013. By its resolution 63/270, the General Assembly decided that the resources approved for associated costs for the capital master plan will be financed from within the approved budget of the capital master plan unless otherwise specified by the General Assembly, and decided not to approve the overall level of associated costs at this time, bearing in mind opportunities for further cost reductions posed by the present economic circumstances as well as savings realized by the Secretary-General.

¹ A/62/799.

² A/63/582.



3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled paragraph 50 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,³ and requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 from within the overall budget approved for the capital master plan in a total amount of \$30,272,400 (net), broken down as follows:

(a) \$995,300 for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management;

(b) \$3,823,100 for the Department of Public Information;

(c) \$11,720,100 for the Office of Central Support Services;

(d) \$4,521,600 for construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance activities at Headquarters;

(e) \$7,576,300 for the Department of Safety and Security;

(f) \$1,636,000 for the Office of Information and Communications Technology.

4. Table 1 below reflects the status of expenditures pertaining to associated costs for the biennium 2008-2009 as at 31 July 2009. Further explanation on the status of implementation, projected expenditure and the proposed use of funds yet unspent is provided in paragraphs 5 to 19 below.

Table 1

Status of expenditures pertaining to associated costs as at 31 July 2009

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Approved 2008-2009</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 July 2009</i>	<i>Estimated requirements 1 August to 31 December 2009</i>	<i>Available balances</i>
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) = (a) - (b) + (c)
Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	995.3	521.2	474.1	—
Department of Public Information	3 823.1	317.4	3 505.7	—
Office of Central Support Services	11 720.1	3 468.4	5 155.6	3 096.1
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance activities at Headquarters	4 521.6	2 418.8	2 368.8	(266.0)
Department of Safety and Security	7 576.3	4 475.0	3 101.3	—
Office of Information and Communications Technology	1 636.0	138.0	966.0	532.0
Total	30 272.4	11 338.8	15 571.5	3 362.1

³ A/63/736.

II. Status of implementation

A. Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

5. The funds allocated to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management amounting to \$995,300 were for general temporary assistance exclusively. These are being used to employ information technology specialists to address connectivity and performance issues of its mission-critical systems during the period when the staff of the Department will be located in as many as eight different locations. A total expenditure of \$521,200 has been recorded, and the Department expects to fully utilize the funds by the end of 2009, bearing in mind the phased relocation of Department staff.

B. Department of Public Information

6. Funds earmarked for the biennium 2008-2009 in the amount of \$3,823,100 will be committed by the end of 2009. The amount of \$317,400 was budgeted for the reconfiguration of a radio studio for the new International Broadcast Centre and for the audio-visual archivists to work on the inventory, appraisal, selection, classification, retention, disposal and indexing of audio-visual records and was fully committed.

7. An amount of \$3,505,700 has been earmarked for work to create the selection criteria and a proof-of-concept library for the Digital Media Asset Management System. Implementation to date, however, has been slower than originally planned for the following technical reason. In order to optimize the functional development of the Digital Media Asset Management System, it was decided that the procurement of this system would be separated from that of the Permanent Broadcast Facility, so that both systems would receive substantial attention to their unique specification requirements. This decision necessitates additional work and has resulted in the slower than projected commitment of resources. Nevertheless, the procurement process is well under way and is being expedited. Specialists with expertise in broadcast, engineering, information technology and archives management have been engaged and are working on a rigorous six-week project to provide inputs for the "Request for proposal" documents, which are expected in October 2009. It is expected that the amount of \$3,504,000 will be committed by the end of 2009. It should be noted that, even in the scenario where funds are committed in the early part of 2010, resources requested for 2010 for the integrated system for broadcast facility will still be required as the design of Digital Media Asset Management System and the integrated system for broadcast facility are now considered as a single construction project.

C. Office of Central Support Services

8. Resources in the amount of \$11,720,100 were allocated to manage logistical activities of the moves to swing space with regard to asset tracking, asset disposal, archive and record keeping; support the continuation of audio and video conference services and migration of operations and conference support systems; ensure the

maintenance of swing space locations; and procure furnishing for the refurbished Secretariat.

9. As at 31 July 2009, a total expenditure of \$3,468,400 has been recorded, including \$769,780, under general temporary assistance for seven general temporary assistance positions approved under capital master plan associated costs (please refer to para. 25 on the reduction in resources for general temporary assistance for the biennium 2008-2009);³ \$430,900 under contractual services for the design development of the central broadcasting facility; \$1,160,840 under general operating expenses for rental of office space to accommodate the new capital master plan associated costs positions at Headquarters, asset tracking services, and miscellaneous moves; and \$1,106,880 under furniture and equipment for the acquisition of audio communication systems, the procurement of archive compact shelving, and the acquisition of furniture for the additional positions approved under capital master plan associated costs and of a handicapped accessible vehicle to facilitate access to all swing space locations.

10. Projected expenditures for the period August to December 2009 total \$5,155,600. The underlying resource requirement includes:

(a) \$680,220 under general temporary assistance to cover capital master plan support functions such as conference and building systems expertise, space and asset management, procurement of furniture, record management and shuttle operation;

(b) \$237,500 under contractual services would cover project engineering to manage the integration of new audio-video broadcast systems with existing systems and to oversee the commissioning and pilot testing of conference equipment in the North Lawn Conference Building;

(c) \$1,660,060 under general operating expenses would cover the cost of moving services for archival material, the disposal of assets and artwork, relocation services for inventory tracking and reconciliation, maintenance of swing spaces, messenger services and other miscellaneous services;

(d) \$2,562,820 under furniture and equipment would cover the partial cost of furniture for permanent locations within the Secretariat basements, development cost of central broadcast and audio-visual facility equipment and the acquisition of IP video and audio systems;

(e) \$15,000 for other miscellaneous costs, such as for new building system equipment-related training and testing costs.

11. The projected expenditure for 2008-2009 would amount to \$8,624,000 resulting in under-expenditure of \$3,096,100. The lower than expected rate of implementation is explained by:

(a) Savings of \$1,832,100 under rental of premises, as a result of delays in the signing of the lease for archive storage expansion and negotiation of rent abatements; specialized services relating to services for the moves of archival material and disposal actions; and procurement of archive compact shelving at prices lower than originally estimated;

(b) The repshal to future periods of \$1,264,000, principally relating to furniture and lockers for the permanent relocation of various groups in the

basement. The capital master plan schedule will now require the furniture to be procured in 2011 for installation in 2012.

12. Of the total anticipated saving of \$1,832,000, it is proposed to use savings of \$1,566,000 to cover the move of artwork located throughout the United Nations complex in 2011 and 2013. It had been assumed that the majority of the art pieces would be retrieved by Member States for the duration of the capital master plan. However, the response by donors to date has been slow. Consequently, the artwork will remain on campus and be relocated in phases, requiring special handling and insurance coverage. The first move will take place in 2009 and its resource requirement is already included in the projected expenditures. The subsequent remaining moves will take place in 2011 and 2013. Further, the remaining amount of \$266,000 is proposed to be redeployed to meet costs of additional construction, alteration requirements arising from the build-out of the archive expansion project (see para. 14 below).

13. The shuttle service between swing space locations and the United Nations complex is due to be operational by October 2009. Costs related to the operation of the service are expected to be met from the resources already approved under the section for capital master plan associated costs.

D. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

14. The provision approved in the amount of \$2,443,500 for the build-out of additional archive storage and for accommodating the positions funded under the capital master plan associated costs is expected to be over-expended by an amount of \$266,000. The archive expansion project has now been fully designed and the resulting cost is higher than initially budgeted. Consequently, a redeployment of funds totalling \$266,000 from the Office of Central Support Services (see para. 12 above) would be required to cover the shortfall in this area.

15. The provision of \$2,078,100 was budgeted for security and safety-related equipment. The scope of work is finalized, contracts under the systems contract are under negotiation and procurement actions are well under way. It is foreseen that the amount \$2,078,100 will be fully committed by the end of 2009. It should also be noted that this expenditure pattern is in line with the planned data centre activity/workplan.

E. Department of Safety and Security

16. The projected expenditure for the biennium 2008-2009 would amount to \$7,576,300. As at 31 July 2009, a total expenditure of \$4,475,000 has been recorded under general temporary assistance for 63 general temporary assistance positions (\$3,078,300); under contractual services for specialized training of security officers, canine training, re-certification of canine teams, psychological testing and evaluation for new recruits (\$180,500); under general operating expenses for communications, costs of webmail and network accounts, cost of pistol permits for security officers (\$50,200); and under supplies and materials for the acquisition of security and safety equipment such as pistols for security officers, X-ray machines, hand-held metal detectors, access control hardware, locksmith hardware, other

equipment such as firearms safes, Motorola radios, Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) system, air purifiers, vehicles and carts (\$1,166,000).

17. Projected expenditures for the period August to December 2009 total \$3,101,300. The underlying resource requirement comprises:

(a) \$2,582,000 to support the continuation of the 63 existing capital master plan funded positions (56 Security Officer positions, 5 Professional positions and 2 General Service (Other level) positions) plus an additional 2 General Service positions expected to be filled by the end of the year;

(b) \$107,800 relating to contractual services engaged for the staff notification system and other specialized services such as drug and psychological tests conducted during the recruitment campaign;

(c) \$96,600 to meet the operating costs of webmail and network accounts and other office communication systems;

(d) an estimated amount of \$314,900 for other supplies and materials to maintain ongoing security needs, including trailer and under vehicle inspection kits, ammunitions, uniforms for security officers, supplies for the well-being of canine assets (such as veterinary services and canine food supplies).

F. Office of Information and Communications Technology

18. Funds totalling \$1,636,000 were allocated to the Office of Information and Communications Technology to provide for (a) contractual services to cover a six-member team of migration team coordinators to facilitate and coordinate the work of each of the application migration teams (\$1,519,700); (b) general temporary assistance (\$92,300) for the removal, inventory and overall logistics of information technology equipment that must be maintained during the capital master plan; and (c) an estimated 20 days of highly specialized consultancy services (\$24,000) in connection with applications migration planning and strategy.

19. At present, it is expected that the majority of the capital master plan moves to swing space will be completed by the end of 2009 and hence the majority of funds allocated for general temporary assistance will be fully expended, as will the funds for the specialized consultancy services.

20. However, the recruitment of migration team coordinators has been delayed as a result of unforeseen complications with the renewal of the current major information technology service provider contracts (arising from the technical evaluations). As a result of the delay, it is envisaged that there would be an unencumbered balance of approximately \$532,000 at the end of 2009. The delayed data migration from the Secretariat building to the Primary Data Centre will now take place from November 2009 to March 2010, and the resources would be required in early 2010.

III. Proposed estimates for associated costs for 2010

21. In resolution 63/270, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly, for its decision at the main part of the sixty-fourth session, in the

context of his seventh annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan, proposals for financing the associated costs required for the year 2010 from within the approved budget of the capital master plan. In this respect, table 2 and table 3 below summarize the associated costs requirements for the year 2010 by section and by object of expenditure.

22. The resource requirements for 2010 remain broadly in line with the level requested in the previous report on associated costs related to the capital master plan,² except for an adjustment to general temporary assistance resources on the basis of standard costs to accommodate already approved staffing levels. Accordingly, the estimated requirements for the year 2010 amount to \$50,114,100. Details of the anticipated resource requirements for 2010 are provided in paragraphs 23 to 29 below.

Table 2
Summary of resource requirements by budget section
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Approved 2008-2009^a</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2010^b</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2011-2013^b</i>
Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	995.3	645.6	1 319.2
Department of Public Information	3 823.1	30 035.8	—
Office of Central Support Services	11 720.1	6 141.3	66 727.1
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance at Headquarters	4 521.6	2 289.1	1 500.0
Department of Safety and Security	7 576.3	10 358.3	21 033.4
Office of Information and Communications Technology	1 636.0	644.0	1 295.2
Total	30 272.4	50 114.1	91 874.9

^a Approved by General Assembly resolution 63/270.

^b Position cost revised based on revised standard salary scales for 2010-2011.

Table 3
Summary of resource requirements by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Approved 2008-2009^a</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2010^b</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2011-2013^b</i>
Other staff cost	7 711.0	12 257.1	24 935.2
Consultants and experts	3 528.0	0.0	0.0
Travel of staff	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual services	2 868.6	1 086.2	2 098.0

	<i>Approved 2008-2009^a</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2010^b</i>	<i>Estimated cost 2011-2013^b</i>
General operating expenses	4 971.6	1 728.5	3 550.2
Supplies and materials	429.7	118.8	237.6
Furniture and equipment	6 241.8	32 634.4	59 553.9
Improvement of premises	4 521.6	2 289.1	1 500.0
Total	30 272.4	50 114.1	91 874.9

^a Approved by General Assembly resolution 63/270.

^b Position cost revised based on revised standard salary scales for 2010-2011.

A. Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

23. The resource requirement of \$645,600 for 2010 would provide for the continuation of six general temporary assistance positions, including two information systems officers and four records management assistants, during the capital master plan implementation to ensure that, when it is located over several sites, information technology services will be maintained at current levels to ensure that the mission critical systems of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, particularly meetings management, document management and digital recording systems, will be fully operational.

B. Department of Public Information

24. The resource requirement of \$30,035,800 for 2010 relates to the integrated system under the furniture and equipment heading. This would provide for the replacement of the current obsolete broadcast equipment with equipment that represents the latest technology and standards in the industry. The newly designed broadcast facility will be integrated with the services provided by the installation of robotic cameras and digitized audio and will enable the seamless movement of video images between Headquarters and field offices. It will also simplify departmental operations and enhance productivity. The above cost includes the procurement of all equipment related to the media operations centre, master control room, television production control for high definition, editing suites for high definition non-linear formats, audio control room, radio control rooms and radio studios, including the infrastructure for the central equipment facility.

C. Office of Central Support Services

25. Resources required in 2010 are estimated at \$6,141,300, comprising the following:

(a) \$1,600,900 to provide for 11 general temporary assistance positions to cover such responsibilities as provision of technical expertise, the integration of new building management systems, space and asset management, the procurement of furnishings for an estimated 4,500 staff and records management. It should be

recalled that a total of 11 general temporary assistance positions were requested for the tasks specified above in the report of the Secretary-General on associated costs related to the capital master plan.² In paragraphs 50 and 57 of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,³ the Committee noted that by the time the General Assembly considers the request of the Secretary-General, in March 2009 at the earliest, only nine months of the biennium will remain and, in view of the timing of the General Assembly's consideration of the proposal of the Secretary-General, recommended a reduction of 40 per cent in the resources requested for general temporary assistance in the Office of Central Support Services, the Office of the Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Safety and Security. Accordingly only seven positions were in place for 2009. However, for the year 2010, a full staffing complement of 11 general temporary assistance positions is considered necessary and has been proposed in this report;

(b) \$414,300 for contractual services for conference project engineers to oversee the installation and commissioning of video systems, media servers, and conference audio-visual and broadcasting systems during the refurbishment of the Conference Building by the capital master plan;

(c) \$1,527,500 under general operating expenses to provide for rent of office space (\$672,100) to accommodate the positions under the capital master plan associated cost requiring a workstation; centralized data-processing and communications services for the 11 general temporary assistance funded positions referenced above (\$45,400); and miscellaneous services (\$810,000) to cover asset disposal costs and relocation services for inventory tracking and reconciliation, space and move management software support for the monitoring and updating of floor plans and office space planning data, vehicle maintenance, messenger services to swing space locations, and other maintenance related services;

(d) \$2,175,000 to cover the cost of furniture installation for the Conference Building and training classrooms;

(e) \$423,600 for advance development of the central broadcast and audio-visual facility equipment.

D. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

26. Resource requirements of \$2,289,100 are being sought for 2010 for costs related to the acquisition of security-related equipment to support the Department of Safety and Security requirements. This includes the acquisition of network switches to create the security command centre and software for the CCTV and access control system (\$1,672,000); and uninterruptible power supply units (\$138,000). The above equipment would provide support to the Department of Safety and Security security officers in the management and monitoring of security in the capital master plan-related swing spaces. Ongoing maintenance and data storage costs related to that equipment in the amount of \$479,100 will also be required for 2010.

E. Department of Safety and Security

27. Resources amounting to \$10,358,300 are required for the year 2010. Of that amount, \$9,849,800 relates to the support of the temporary security contingent to provide security coverage in accordance with minimum operating security standards related to swing space locations and construction activity at the North Lawn and the Secretariat building, including 8 Professional positions (1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 5 P-3), 6 General Service (Other level) positions and 93 Security Officer positions. Specific tasks required of these positions include: (a) access control and screening of persons, packages and vehicles entering and leaving the swing space and construction premises; (b) emergency response and crisis management capabilities in swing space and construction areas; (c) pass and identification services for all construction activities; (d) explosive device detection; (e) fire safety and hazardous material monitoring; (f) interaction with the host country authorities to ensure compliance with safety codes and follow-up on any corrective measures; (g) training for and conducting fire drills; and (h) testing of all life safety systems in all swing space locations. It should be recalled that a total of 108 general temporary assistance positions were requested for the tasks specified above in the report of the Secretary-General on associated costs related to the capital master plan.² For the reasons already indicated in paragraph 25 above, only 65 positions, 40 per cent less than the number requested, were in place for 2009. However, for the year 2010, a full staffing complement of 108 general temporary assistance positions is considered necessary and has been proposed in this report.

28. All construction-related deliveries of material and equipment must undergo a thorough screening process in accordance with the Headquarters' minimum operating security standards. Therefore, the continuation of canine support (such as veterinary, dog training and kennel services) is also required. Related costs for security officer positions under associated costs will also continue in 2010. These include specialized training of Security Officers (\$120,000), recertification of canine teams (\$27,000), other specialized services such as substance abuse testing, laundry service and annual maintenance of staff notification system previously approved under associated costs (\$41,700), communications (\$19,700), information technology services (\$95,800), other miscellaneous services such as canine veterinarian services, canine kennelling services, and renewal of pistol permits, maintenance of vehicles approved under associated costs (\$85,500) and supplies such as uniforms, canine supplies for dog training, food supplies for canines and ammunitions (\$118,800).

F. Office of Information and Communications Technology

29. Resources estimated at \$644,000 are required for 2010 for the continuation of two information technology assistant positions (\$160,800) and contractual services in support of the technology infrastructure and help desk requirements in the additional swing space locations and North Lawn Conference Building (\$483,200).

III. Conclusions and recommendations

30. The Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly:

(a) Approve the continued funding of associated costs for the year 2010 from within the approved budget of the capital master plan;

(b) Approve the total associated costs for the year 2010 in the amount of \$50,114,100, broken down as follows: an amount of \$645,600 for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; \$30,035,800 for the Department of Public Information; \$6,141,300 for the Office of Central Support Services; \$2,289,100 for construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance activities at Headquarters; \$10,358,300 for the Department of Safety and Security; and \$644,000 for the Office of Information and Communications Technology.



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Oceans and the law of the sea

Report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to recommend a course of action to the General Assembly on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Letter dated 10 September 2009 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Pursuant to your letter dated 21 August 2009, we were appointed as the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, established in accordance with paragraph 157 of General Assembly resolution 63/111, to recommend a course of action to the Assembly on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects.

We have the honour to submit to you the attached report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, which met at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 4 September 2009. The outcome of the meeting consists of a brief procedural report and a set of agreed recommendations to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on a course of action for the regular process.

We kindly request that the present letter and the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

(Signed) Hilario G. Davide Jr.

(Signed) Gunnar Pálsson

* A/64/150.

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to recommend a course of action to the General Assembly on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole was convened pursuant to paragraph 157 of General Assembly resolution 63/111 to recommend to the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly a course of action on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. The meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 31 August to 4 September 2009.
2. The meeting was presided over by two Co-Chairs, Mr. Hilario G. Davide, Jr. (Philippines) and Mr. Gunnar Pálsson (Iceland), appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States. The following Friends of the Co-Chairs were nominated by the regional groups: Mr. Ismail Chekkori (Morocco) for the Group of African States; Mr. Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) for the Group of Asian States; Mr. Carlos Michelen (Dominican Republic) for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Mr. Samir Sharifov (Azerbaijan) for the Group of Eastern European States; and Mrs. Elizabeth J. Tirpak (United States of America) for the Group of Western European and Other States.
3. The meeting was attended by 80 representatives of States, in addition to representatives of 10 intergovernmental organizations and other bodies.
4. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting: (a) the report on the results of the assessment of assessments (A/64/88, annex) and (b) the format, provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda, including the proposed organization of work. Following its official launch, the report on the assessment of assessments, prepared by the Group of Experts, was also made available to the meeting.
5. The Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro, opened the meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General.
6. Following a general exchange of views, the meeting heard presentations on a general introduction to and the outcome of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group from: Mr. Patricio Bernal, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mr. Peter Gilruth, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and, on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, Mr. Salif Diop (UNEP) and Mr. Julian Barbiere (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO).
7. The meeting also heard presentations on the report of the Group of Experts by the following experts: Mrs. Jacqueline McGlade (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr. Kwame Korenteng (Ghana), Co-Chairs of the Group of Experts; Mr. Jake Rice (Canada); Mr. Andrew Rosenberg (United States); Mr. Wajih Naqvi (India); Mrs. Beatrice Ferreira (Brazil); Mr. Gunnar Sanders (Norway); Mrs. Jill Jaeger (United Kingdom); Mrs. Lee Kimball (United States); and Mr. Alan Simcock (United Kingdom). The presentations were followed by question-and-answer sessions.

8. Following the presentations, the meeting discussed a course of action on the regular process that could be recommended to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. On the basis of those discussions, the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Friends of the Co-Chairs, prepared draft recommendations for consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. The recommendations were then agreed upon, with modifications by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

9. The recommendations on a course of action for the regular process, transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, are attached as an annex to the present report.

Annex

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole established by General Assembly resolution 63/111 to recommend a course of action to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, based on the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, recalled the recommendation of the 2002 Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development¹ and the decision of the Assembly in its resolution 57/141 to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments.
2. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole also recalled the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/30, to launch the start-up phase, the "assessment of assessments", as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the regular process.
3. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole acknowledged with appreciation the work carried out by the Group of Experts under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Steering Group and with the assistance of the lead agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the support provided by other organizations and experts.
4. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole noted the decision of the Ad Hoc Steering Group and took note of the report on the results of the assessment of assessments prepared by the Group of Experts. At the same time, the Ad Hoc Working Group also noted the regional variability and gaps in assessments, in particular with regard to socio-economic aspects. It further noted that the description of the regions by the Group of Experts was intended solely for the purpose of organizing the review of existing assessments and was not intended to be prescriptive with regard to regional analyses for future work of the regular process.
5. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, having considered the report on the results of the assessment of assessments transmitted by UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in accordance with paragraph 94 (d) of General Assembly resolution 60/30, as well as the outcome of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, recommends to the Assembly the following course of action on the regular process:

I. Framework for the regular process

6. The framework for the regular process would, subject to further consideration by Member States, consist of: (a) the overall objective for the regular process, (b) a description of the scope of the regular process, (c) a set of principles to guide its

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 36 (b).

establishment and operation and (d) the best practices on key design features for the regular process as identified by the Group of Experts. Capacity-building, sharing of data, information and transfer of technology would be crucial elements of the framework.

Overall objective

7. The regular process under the United Nations would be recognized as the global mechanism for reviewing the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis by providing regular assessments at the global and supraregional levels and an integrated view of environmental, economic and social aspects. Such assessments would support informed decision-making and thus contribute to managing in a sustainable manner human activities that affect the oceans and seas, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments and initiatives.

8. The regular process would facilitate the identification of trends and enable appropriate responses by States and competent regional and international organizations.

9. The regular process would promote and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in all of its activities.

10. Ecosystem approaches would be recognized as a useful framework for conducting fully integrated assessments.

Capacity-building and technology transfer

11. The regular process would promote, facilitate and ensure capacity-building and transfer of technology, including marine technology, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments and initiatives, for developing and other States, taking into account the criteria and guidelines on the transfer of marine technology of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

12. The regular process would promote technical cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

13. States and global and regional organizations would be invited to cooperate with each other to identify gaps and shared priorities as a basis for developing a coherent programme to support capacity-building in marine monitoring and assessment.

14. The value of large-scale and comprehensive assessments, notably in the Global Environment Facility's international waters large-marine ecosystems initiatives, in identifying and concentrating on capacity-building priorities would be recognized.

15. Opportunities for capacity-building would be identified, in particular on the basis of existing capacity-building arrangements and the identified capacity-building priorities, needs and requests of developing countries.

16. States and relevant international organizations, bodies and institutions would be invited to cooperate in building the capacity of developing countries in marine science, monitoring and assessment, including through workshops, training programmes and materials and fellowships.

17. Quality assurance procedures and guidance would be developed to assist Governments and international organizations to improve the quality and comparability of data.

Scope

18. The scope of the regular process is global and supraregional, encompassing the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable.

19. In the first cycle, the scope of the regular process would focus on establishing a baseline. In subsequent cycles, the scope of the regular process would extend to evaluating trends.

20. The scope of individual assessments under the regular process would be identified by Member States in terms of, inter alia, geographic coverage, an appropriate analytical framework, considerations of sustainability, issues of vulnerability and future scenarios that may have implications for policymakers.

Principles

21. The regular process would be guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments and initiatives, and would include reference to the following principles:

- (a) Viewing the oceans as part of the whole Earth system;
- (b) Regular evaluation by Member States of assessment products and the regular process itself to support adaptive management;
- (c) Use of sound science and the promotion of scientific excellence;
- (d) Regular analysis to ensure that emerging issues, significant changes and gaps in knowledge are detected at an early stage;
- (e) Continual improvement in scientific and assessment capacity, including the promotion and development of capacity-building activities and transfer of technology;
- (f) Effective links with policymakers and other users;
- (g) Inclusiveness with respect to communication and engagement with all stakeholders through appropriate means for their participation, including appropriate representation and regional balance at all levels;
- (h) Recognition and utilization of traditional and indigenous knowledge and principles;
- (i) Transparency and accountability for the regular process and its products;
- (j) Exchange of information at all levels;
- (k) Effective links with, and building on, existing assessment processes, in particular at the regional and national levels;
- (l) Adherence to equitable geographical representation in all activities of the regular process.

II. First cycle of the regular process

22. In order to support adaptive management, the regular process would be implemented through a succession of cycles. A first cycle of the regular process would cover five years, from 2010 to 2014, coinciding with the next review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the theme "Oceans and seas", bearing in mind that the thematic cluster for 2014/2015 will remain as part of the multi-year programme of work (E/2003/29-E/CN.17/2003/6) as scheduled, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission.

23. The first phase of the first cycle, covering the years from 2010 to 2012, would be devoted to the development of the strategy and timetable for the production of an integrated assessment of the world's oceans and seas, taking into consideration the scope, guiding principles and best practice guidance on key design features for the regular process proposed by the Group of Experts, as well as the promotion and development of capacity-building activities and transfer of technology.

24. The second phase of the first cycle, covering the years 2013 and 2014, would produce an integrated assessment of the oceans, including agreed priority cross-cutting thematic issues such as food security, and establish a baseline for future global assessments. This would provide the scientific basis for the identification of appropriate baselines and internationally agreed environmental standards for use in assessments of the state of the marine environment (including guidelines for their development, where required) and suitable programmes to monitor and report on the effects of human activities on the marine environment.

25. The assessment procedures adopted by Member States to govern the integrated assessment would include quality assurance, nomination and selection of experts based on equitable geographical representation, peer review, ways to address uncertainty and lack of consensus among experts, data availability and accessibility and stakeholder engagement.

26. Following the completion of each phase of the five-year cycle, the General Assembly would be provided with a report on the results of the work undertaken.

27. The length, scope, objectives and guiding principles of future cycles of the regular process would be determined by the General Assembly following the completion of the first five-year cycle. At that time, the modalities for the evaluation of the process and its products would also be reviewed by the Assembly.

III. A way forward

28. More time is needed to further consider the report in detail. It is recommended that the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole be reconvened to:

(a) Further consider and make recommendations to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the modalities for the implementation of the regular process, including the key features and institutional arrangements and financing, taking into consideration the report on the results of the assessment of assessments, the reports of the Group of Experts and discussions at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(b) Specify the objective and scope of the first cycle of the regular process, key questions to be answered and primary target audiences, in order to ensure that assessments are relevant for decision makers.

29. In order to further prepare the way for decisions on the implementation of the first cycle, more detail should be developed on the fundamental building blocks identified by the Group of Experts.

30. States should be invited to present views on the fundamental building blocks of the regular process, to be reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea to be presented as an addendum to the report to the sixty-fourth session.

31. It is recommended that the Group of Experts, as constituted by the General Assembly by invitations to States, attend a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened no later than September 2010 for one week, to respond and make suggestions on the issues listed in paragraph 60 of the report on the results of the assessment of assessments, taking into account the comments and observations submitted by States.

32. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs would be requested to provide support for the regular process, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and programmes.

Financial resources for the regular process

33. The operation of the first five-year cycle of the regular process would be supported through financial and other resources from Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons. To that end, a voluntary trust fund should be established.

34. A special scholarship fund would be established to support training programmes for developing countries.

35. Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons would be urged to make contributions to the funds.